

Dissipative Quantum Electromagnetics: A Novel Approach

Wei E. I. Sha*

*Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering,
The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China*

Aiyin Y. Liu† and Weng C. Chew‡

*Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, Champaign IL, USA*

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The dissipative quantum electromagnetics is introduced in a comprehensive manner as a field-matter-bath coupling problem. First, the matter is described by a cluster of Lorentz oscillators. Then the Maxwellian free field is coupled to the Lorentz oscillators to describe a frequency dispersive medium. The classical Hamiltonian is derived for such a coupled system, using Lorenz gauge and decoupled scalar and vector potential formulation. The classical equations of motion are derivable from the Hamiltonian using Hamilton equations. Then the Hamiltonian is quantized with all the pertinent variables with the introduction of commutators between the variables and their conjugate pairs. The quantum equations of motion can be derived using the quantum Hamilton equations. It can be shown that such a quantization scheme preserves the quantum commutators introduced. Then a noise bath consisting of simple harmonic oscillators is introduced and coupled to the matter consisting of Lorentz oscillators to induce quantum loss. Langevin source emerges naturally in such a procedure, and it can be shown that the results are consistent with the fluctuation dissipation theorem, and the quantization procedure of Welsch's group. The advantage of the present procedure is that no diagonalization of the Hamiltonian is necessary to arrive at the quantum equations of motion.

I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum dissipation is an interesting topic that has been studied by many researchers [1, 2]. In the field of quantum optics, it has been discussed in books [3–14] and reported in many papers [15–24]. Since the manipulation of single photon is occurring in microwave regime, it is appropriate to call this emerging field quantum electromagnetics [25, ref. therein].

Since the total energy of the universe is conserved or a constant, the Hamiltonian of the quantum system of the universe is a constant of motion, implying energy conservation. In the quantum representation, the Hamiltonian, which becomes an operator, is a Hermitian operator with real eigenvalues, implying that the eigenfunctions of the system cannot decay with time. However, when the universe is partitioned into sum of quantum systems, energy can be transferred between these partitioned systems, giving rise to energy decay in one system and energy gain in another system.

A popular way to consider loss or dissipation in a quantum system is to couple it to a heat/noise bath, or a bath of oscillators [2, 17], where [17] deals specially with electromagnetic system. In principle, the total quantum system is still Hermitian if no energy can escape from this coupled system. However, the heat bath has infinite degrees of freedom; therefore, when energy is transferred

from the quantum system to the heat bath, the chance of reversibility of the energy transfer is highly unlikely. This is also the root cause for the increase of entropy in a thermodynamic system.

But in the spirit of the fluctuation dissipation theorem, which describes a system in thermal equilibrium with its environment or a heat bath, as much energy is fed back to the system from the environment as it loses energy to its environment. The feedback of energy from the environment to the system can be described by Langevin sources [26]. Hence, in the system coupled to a heat bath (or a noise bath since the Langevin sources are random as in random noise), energy does flow in the reverse direction, namely, from the heat bath to the quantum system. But this is different from time reversibility.

Similar ideas applied to electromagnetics has also been fervently studied up to recent years [7, 8, 18–24]. In many of these models, the quantum system of interest is often subsumed by the noise bath, and becomes “one of them”. Huttner and Barnett [17] presented a canonical quantization scheme for the electromagnetic field in lossy and dispersive media with Fano diagonalization [27]. This scheme is based on the Hopfield model of such media [1] where the atomic or molecular excitations are approximated by simple harmonic oscillators. The corresponding bilinear Hamiltonian is diagonalized by “Bogoliubov-like” transformation. In the first step, the polarization field and the heat bath together form dressed-matter operators. In the second step, the dressed-matter operators are combined with photon/field operators to obtain the diagonal Hamiltonian with polariton operators. Gruner and Welsch [19, 20] started with the postulated polariton Hamiltonian and verified the preservation of equal-time

* wsha@eee.hku.hk

† liu141@illinois.edu

‡ w-chew@uiuc.edu

canonical commutation relations in the quantization procedure, by using the fluctuation dissipation theorem and by connecting the Langevin noise sources to the polariton operators. However, after the diagonalization, the physical clarity of the polariton Hamiltonian is obscured in this reservoir-coupled dissipative electromagnetic system.

Alternatively, based on the canonical quantization method proposed by Glauber [16], Milonni [18] extended the mode decomposition based quantization method to dispersive media by employing the formulation of energy density in linear and dispersive electromagnetic system [7] as Hamiltonian density. Milonni assumed that absorption is negligible, which approximates the Kramers-Kronig relations [17, 28]. Although the Hamiltonian adopted has significant physical meaning, the method is difficult to be generalized to absorbing media and meanwhile preserve canonical commutation relations. Consequently, a desired quantization approach for Maxwell's equations in lossy and dispersive media requires: (1) an elegant Hamiltonian with clear and significant physical meaning; (2) a rigorous quantization procedure satisfying canonical commutation relations; (3) an effective and numerically-implementable susceptibility model satisfying Kramers-Kronig relation.

Here, a lucid picture of quantum dissipation in electromagnetic system is presented to fulfill the above requirements. First, the field-matter system is quantized without mode decomposition or diagonalization of the system. Then the matter is coupled to a noise bath to induce the appearance of dissipation and Langevin sources. While doing this, connection to the classical system is maintained by quantizing via the quantum Hamilton equations [29, 30]. In this work, the matter will be described by multi-species Lorentz oscillators.

II. CLASSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD-MATTER SYSTEM

The interaction of electrons or charged particles of mass m with an electric field is often treated classically by the equation of motion as

$$m\ddot{x} + m\gamma\dot{x} + \kappa x = qE. \quad (1)$$

On the left-hand-side, the first term is due to inertia since \ddot{x} is the acceleration of the charged particle. The second term is due to friction or collision since it is proportional to the velocity \dot{x} and γ is the collision frequency. And the third term is due to a restoring force similar to Hooke's law with spring constant κ . The right-hand side is the driving force due to the electric field E while q is the particle charge. For lack of a better name, this model will be called the Drude-Lorentz-Sommerfeld (DLS) model since these researchers have contributed to it at various times. Sommerfeld has contributed to the quantum theory of such model.

Many models follow from this model. When the friction term dominates, the Drude model can be derived from it. When the inertia term and the spring term dominate, the above is often called a Lorentz oscillator. Also, when the spring term and the friction term dominates, the Debye relaxation model follows. Furthermore, when the collision and the spring terms are absent, the effective permittivity for cold collisionless plasma can be derived. The above equation can be easily converted into a form

$$\ddot{x} + \gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = qE/m. \quad (2)$$

where $\omega_0 = \sqrt{\kappa/m}$ is the resonant frequency of the oscillator if loss is absent or $\gamma = 0$. For the lossless case, the DLS oscillator becomes the Lorentz oscillator which is just a simple harmonic oscillator: it can be quantized.

A. Coupling of Maxwellian Free Field to Lorentz Oscillators

The quantization of free electromagnetic field in a lossless dispersionless medium has recently been given using a differing viewpoint without mode decomposition [29, 30]. In this work, the field-matter-bath model will be introduced. The “field” here refers to the free field or the photon field. The “matter” here will be modeled by collection of Lorentz oscillators as in classical electromagnetics. The “bath” will also be modeled by the coupling of the Lorentz oscillators to an infinite random assortment of simple harmonic oscillators which are also Lorentz oscillators. This is similar to the field-matter-bath model of Huttner and Barnett [17].

However, using similar approach here compared to before [29, 30], the quantization of free electromagnetic field coupled to lossless Lorentz dipoles is given without the need for mode decomposition and diagonalization of the system. As shall be shown, due to this coupling, the total field-matter system is dispersive, but lossless. Next, loss can be induced by coupling the field-matter to a noise bath of harmonic oscillators, giving rise to a field-matter-bath system with quantum dissipation. First, only one species of Lorentz dipoles is presented, but generalization to multiple species of Lorentz dipoles can be easily achieved so that arbitrary dispersive media can be modeled.

To understand the dispersion better, the Maxwellian free field can be thought of as a system where the dipoles are formed by the polarization of electron-positron (e-p) pairs lurking in vacuum [31, p. 361]. The electric flux due to these e-p pairs is given by $\mathbf{D} = \epsilon_0 \mathbf{E}$, and their resonant frequency is so high that the ϵ_0 can be regarded as dispersionless for the free field or the photon field. In dispersive media consisting of field-matter coupling, the Maxwellian system for the free or vacuum field is coupled to Lorentz dipoles or oscillators representing the media. The Lorentz dipoles model the oscillation of charged atoms or molecules that are bulky and hence, has much larger inertial mass: They cannot be turned on (or

off) instantaneously, giving rise to dispersion. Moreover, they have resonant frequency much less than that of the e-p pairs in vacuum [32].

B. The Classical Equations for the Coupled System

One starts with a lone lossless Lorentz oscillator. A distribution of these Lorentz oscillators gives rise to polarization density, and hence, polarization current. A classical picture of this is given in many text books. For simplicity and without loss of generality, $\mu = \epsilon = 1$ is assumed [33]. The polarization current can be easily derived from (2), and it can be written as

$$\ddot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_p^2 \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \omega_p^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (3)$$

where $\mathbf{P} = nq\mathbf{x}$, the plasma frequency is $\omega_p^2 = nq^2/(m\epsilon)$ where n is the charge particle density and m is the mass of the charged particle with charge q . Also, the normalized \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{P} have the same unit. Consequently, Maxwell's equations can be augmented by coupling to the polarization current as follows.

$$\dot{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla \times \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (5)$$

where $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is the polarization density, and $\mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is the polarization current. Here, \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{H} are the free fields of the system. The flux $\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{P}$ in the present notation. In addition, the above implies that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{r}, t) = 0$ and $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\varrho_P(\mathbf{r}, t)$, where $\varrho_P(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t)$, the polarization charge. Therefore, (3) can be rewritten as two coupled first order systems in time [34]

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (6)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \omega_p^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \gamma \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \omega_0^2 \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (7)$$

Hence, the loss in the system is represented through $\gamma \neq 0$. In order to quantize the system of equations, γ is set to zero first to model the lossless case. This gives rise to a lossless Hermitian system that can be quantized similar to before [29, 30], albeit with some complication since the medium is now dispersive. Eventually, the system will be coupled to a bath of harmonic oscillator, from which quantum dissipation follows.

C. Lorenz Gauge and the Decoupled Potentials

As mentioned before, the lossless dispersive case will be considered first, as it allows for its ease of quantization due to the Hermitian nature of the system. To this end, we need to derive the Hamiltonians that describe the above systems. The Lorenz gauge will be used here [35], since it is commensurate with special relativity

where space and time are treated on the same footing. Therefore,

$$\mathbf{E} = -\dot{\mathbf{A}} - \nabla\Phi, \quad \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}, \quad \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = -\dot{\Phi} \quad (8)$$

Since $\mu = 1$, for the free field here, $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{H}$. With these notations, one can show easily that the original equations of motion for the decoupled potential equations, derivable from the above are:

$$\nabla^2 \Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) - \ddot{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \varrho_P(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (9)$$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \nabla \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \ddot{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (10)$$

The equation of motion for the lossless Lorentz oscillator is then

$$\dot{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_0^2 \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \omega_p^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (11)$$

In the above, one assumes that $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{P} = \varrho_P$, and hence, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = -\varrho_P$ which explains the positive sign of ϱ_P on the right-hand side of (9).

D. Derivation of the Classical Hamiltonian

In order to quantize the electromagnetic system, its classical Hamiltonian needs to be derived first. To derive the corresponding classical Hamiltonians for the different fields, conjugate momenta for \mathbf{A} , Φ , and \mathbf{P} are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_A(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \dot{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t), & \Pi_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) &= \dot{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t), \\ \Pi_P &= \beta \mathbf{V} = \beta \dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

Then similar to the method outlined in [29, 30], one arrives at the Hamiltonian densities for the scalar potential, vector potential, and the polarization density. They are:

$$\mathcal{H}_A = \frac{1}{2} \left[\Pi_A^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})^2 + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})^2 - 2\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} \right] \quad (13)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_\Phi = \frac{1}{2} \left[\Pi_\Phi^2 + (\nabla \Phi)^2 + 2\Phi \varrho_P \right] \quad (14)$$

$$\mathcal{H}_P = \frac{1}{2} \left[\Pi_P^2 / \beta + f \mathbf{P}^2 - 2\mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{E} \right] \quad (15)$$

where $\beta = 1/\omega_p^2$, $f = \omega_0^2/\omega_p^2$. The Hamiltonian is related to the Hamiltonian density via

$$H_i = \int dx^4 \mathcal{H}_i \quad (16)$$

where i is either A , Φ , or P . In the above, $dx^4 = dt d\mathbf{r}$; integration over four space (space and time) is necessary since in a dispersive medium, the fields from different times affect each other. It is also implicitly implied that the above Hamiltonian densities are integrated over four space that allows the invocation of integration by parts.

It is to be noted that in (13) to (15), there exist coupling between the different Hamiltonians. The Hamiltonian for \mathbf{A} has the polarization current \mathbf{V} in it, while that for Φ has the polarization charge ϱ_P in it, and that for \mathbf{P} has \mathbf{E} in it, where \mathbf{E} is related to \mathbf{A} and Φ via (8). But it is interesting to note that these coupling terms appear as “impressed sources” as expounded in [30]. Hence, the above Hamiltonians do not account for the back-coupling (back action) of the fields back to the “impressed sources”.

To remedy this, the total Hamiltonian is the sum of the three Hamiltonians plus the interaction energy. As shall be seen, it is via the interaction energy that the coupling occurs. Hence, the corrected Hamiltonian becomes

$$H = \int dx^4 (\mathcal{H}_A - \mathcal{H}_\Phi + \mathcal{H}_P + 2\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{P} - \Phi \varrho_P) \\ = \int dx^4 (\mathcal{H}_A - \mathcal{H}_\Phi + \mathcal{H}_P + 2\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} + \Phi \varrho_P) \quad (17)$$

The above equality can be shown using integration by parts over space and time. It can be further shown, using integration by parts in space and time, that the $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V}$ cancels a term in $\mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{E}$, leaving behind a $\mathbf{P} \cdot \nabla \Phi$ term in \mathcal{H}_P . The sum Hamiltonian then becomes

$$H = \int dx^4 \frac{1}{2} \left[\Pi_A^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})^2 + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})^2 \right. \\ \left. - \Pi_\Phi^2 - (\nabla \Phi)^2 + \Pi_P^2/\beta + f\mathbf{P}^2 + 2\mathbf{P} \cdot \nabla \Phi \right] \quad (18)$$

It can now be shown that the above is in fact (see Appendix A)

$$H = \int dx^4 \frac{1}{2} \left[\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{H}^2 + \beta \mathbf{V}^2 + f\mathbf{P}^2 \right] \quad (19)$$

The above result is physically important because the first two terms correspond to energy stored in the electric and magnetic free fields, respectively; the third and the fourth terms are the kinetic and potential energies stored in the Lorentz oscillator, respectively. The above result is comforting since it implies that the Hamilton is equal to the total energy of the system: This has to be a constant of motion.

However, the equations of motion in (9) to (11) cannot be derived readily from (18). The reason is that as the free field is coupled to the Lorentz oscillator, there is a back action of the Lorentz oscillator onto the free field. The Hamiltonians used in equations (13), (14), and (15) do not consider this back action. Therefore, when this back action is present, the conjugate momentum of \mathbf{A} has to be redefined.

To this end, a new conjugate momentum for \mathbf{A} , namely $\Pi_{AP} = \dot{\mathbf{A}} - \mathbf{P}$, is defined. Then (18) becomes [36]

$$H = \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{1}{2} \left[(\Pi_{AP} + \mathbf{P})^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})^2 + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})^2 \right. \\ \left. - \Pi_\Phi^2 - (\nabla \Phi)^2 + \Pi_P^2/\beta + f\mathbf{P}^2 + 2\mathbf{P} \cdot \nabla \Phi \right] \quad (20)$$

In the above, the Hamiltonian involves now an integral over three-space since this Hamiltonian remains to be a constant of motion for an energy conserving system. Hamilton equations, similar to those given in [29, 30], can now be invoked to derive the equations of motion for the conjugate variables, namely,

$$\dot{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \Pi_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t)}, \quad \dot{\Pi}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t)} \quad (21)$$

$$\dot{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \Pi_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t)}, \quad \dot{\Pi}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \Phi(\mathbf{r}, t)} \quad (22)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta H}{\delta \Pi_P(\mathbf{r}, t)}, \quad \dot{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t)} \quad (23)$$

The minus sign found in the equations of motion for Φ and Π_Φ is because the total Hamiltonian is proportional to Hamiltonian for the vector potential minus the Hamiltonian for the scalar potential. This was further explained in [29, 30].

It can be shown easily that the equations of motion (9), (10), (11), can be re-derived from the above. The above gives the Hamiltonian description of the system, and it is from this system that the quantum system can be arrived at. But since such exercise is infrequent, the procedure can be further elaborated next. The left column above corresponds to the equations of motion for \mathbf{A} , Φ and \mathbf{P} . They correspond to taking the variation of the Hamiltonian with respect to the conjugate momenta Π_{AP} , Π_Φ , and \mathbf{V} , and they can be easily done. Therefore, evaluating the right-hand sides of the above equations by taking the proper functional derivatives of the Hamiltonian, one arrives at

$$\dot{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \Pi_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t),$$

$$\dot{\Pi}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \nabla \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (24)$$

$$\dot{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \Pi_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t), \quad \dot{\Pi}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla^2 \Phi - \varrho_P \quad (25)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \Pi_P(\mathbf{r}, t)/\beta = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t),$$

$$\beta \dot{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -f\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \Pi_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \nabla \Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) - \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) \\ = -f\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (26)$$

By combining the results on the left-hand side with those on the right-hand side, the classical equations of motion as shown in (9)-(11) can be obtained.

It is pleasing to note that the equations of motion of the total field-matter system: Maxwellian free fields coupled to the Lorentz oscillators can be expressed in terms of Hamilton equations of motion. This is definitely a more complicated system than that for the Maxwellian free fields alone.

III. QUANTUM DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD-MATTER SYSTEM

To arrive at the quantum equations of motion, first, the quantum Hamiltonian corresponding to the above has to

be derived. Hence, to arrive at the quantum equivalence of the above classical system, it is necessary to first elevate all the conjugate variables to become quantum operators. With this, the Hamiltonian becomes an operator as well, and is now governed by

$$\hat{H} = \int d\mathbf{r} \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\hat{\Pi}_{AP} + \hat{\mathbf{P}} \right)^2 + \left(\nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{A}} \right)^2 + \left(\nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{A}} \right)^2 - \hat{\Pi}_\Phi^2 - \left(\nabla \hat{\Phi} \right)^2 + \hat{\Pi}_P^2 / \beta + f \hat{\mathbf{P}}^2 + 2 \hat{\mathbf{P}} \cdot \nabla \hat{\Phi} \right] \quad (27)$$

These quantum operators corresponding to the conjugate variables operate on a quantum state $|\psi\rangle$ and the time evolution of the entire quantum system described by \hat{H} is now given by [37]

$$\hat{H}|\psi\rangle = i\hbar \partial_t |\psi\rangle \quad (28)$$

The time evolution of each operator in this quantum system is given by the Heisenberg equation of motion:

$$i\hbar \dot{\hat{O}} = [\hat{O}, \hat{H}] \quad (29)$$

It turns out that the quantum Hamilton equations can be derived from the above [29, 30]. To this end, it is necessary that one defines the commutation relation between operators that are conjugate to each other. Hence, the commutation relations that should be introduced here are: [38]

$$[\hat{\Pi}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}', t)] = -i\hbar \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \hat{\mathbf{I}} \quad (30)$$

$$[\hat{\Pi}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}', t)] = +i\hbar \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \hat{I} \quad (31)$$

$$[\hat{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}', t)] = -i\hbar \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \hat{\mathbf{I}} \quad (32)$$

Since the variables \mathbf{A} , Φ , and \mathbf{P} are independent variables so are their conjugate variables, when elevated to be quantum operators, they are also mutually commuting. The above commutators for the fields are similar and analogous in spirit to the position-momentum commutator

$$[\hat{q}_i(t), \hat{p}_j(t)] = i\hbar \hat{I} \delta_{ij} \quad (33)$$

The above commutator in (33) induces the derivative operators that can be used to abbreviate the Heisenberg equation of motion as shown previously [29, 30]. Namely, in the discrete case, they are

$$[\hat{p}_{i'}, \hat{q}_i^n] = -i\hbar \delta_{ii'} \hat{q}_i^{n-1} \hbar = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{q}_{i'}} \hat{q}_i^n$$

$$[\hat{p}_{i'}, \hat{H}] = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{q}_{i'}} \hat{H} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{p}}_{i'}(t) \quad (34)$$

$$[\hat{q}_{i'}, \hat{p}_i^n] = i\hbar \delta_{ii'} \hat{p}_i^{n-1} \hbar = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{p}_{i'}} \hat{p}_i^n$$

$$[\hat{q}_{i'}, \hat{H}] = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{p}_{i'}} \hat{H} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{q}}_{i'}(t) \quad (35)$$

For the continuum case, the above commutators, (30), (31), and (32), induce functional derivative operations [29, 30]. Consequently,

$$[\hat{\Pi}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = -i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\Pi}}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (36)$$

$$[\hat{\mathbf{A}}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\Pi}_{AP}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\mathbf{A}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (37)$$

$$[\hat{\Pi}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\Pi}}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (38)$$

$$[\hat{\Phi}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = -i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\Pi}_\Phi(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\Phi}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (39)$$

$$[\hat{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = -i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\Pi}}_P(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (40)$$

$$[\hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{H}] = i\hbar \frac{\delta \hat{H}}{\delta \hat{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t)} = i\hbar \dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (41)$$

The above quantum Hamilton equations are very similar to their classical counterparts in (21) to (23), and then in (24) to (26). Hence, the quantum analogues of (9)-(11) can be obtained as in previous work [29, 30]. From them, the equations of motion of the quantum operators that are the analog of (3) to (5) for the lossless case are

$$\ddot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_0^2 \hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \omega_p^2 \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (42)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{H}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (43)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{E}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \hat{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (44)$$

It is to be noted that the above equations of motion of these quantum operators have meaning only if they operate on a quantum state $|\psi\rangle$ of the system. Also, the above quantum equations are derived without the normal mode decomposition approach, but can be derived directly from the Hamiltonian using the quantum Hamilton equations. Hence, diagonalization of the system is not necessary. Normal mode decomposition is possible for all linear systems in theory, but for some practical systems, they have to be done numerically. This quantization approach here avoids having to find the normal modes of the system. In other words, numerical diagonalization of the system is not necessary.

A. Preservation of Commutators

It can be shown that the commutators in (30) to (32) are still preserved with the above quantization procedure. For instance, for the commutator

$$\hat{\mathbf{C}}_A = [\hat{\Pi}_{AP}, \hat{\mathbf{A}}] \quad (45)$$

then,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{dt}\hat{\mathbf{C}}_A &= \left[\dot{\hat{\Pi}}_{AP}, \hat{\mathbf{A}}\right] + \left[\hat{\Pi}_{AP}, \dot{\hat{\mathbf{A}}}\right] \\ &= \left[-\nabla \times \nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{A}} + \nabla \nabla \cdot \hat{\mathbf{A}}, \hat{\mathbf{A}}\right] + \left[\dot{\hat{\mathbf{A}}} - \dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}, \dot{\hat{\mathbf{A}}}\right] \\ &= 0\end{aligned}\quad (46)$$

The right-hand side is zero because it can be shown that by using the discrete version of a field as expounded in [29], the space derivative of a field operator commutes with the field operator itself. Also, $\dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}$ and $\dot{\hat{\mathbf{A}}}$ commute because \mathbf{P} and $\dot{\mathbf{A}}$ are independent variables. Similar method can be used to show that the rest of the commutators in (30) to (32) are preserved in this quantization scheme.

IV. DISSIPATION BY COUPLING TO A NOISE BATH

The topic of quantum dissipation in quantum optics has been reported in many books [3–14]. In this section, the coupling of a lone Lorentz harmonic oscillator to a noise bath will be demonstrated. Both classical and quantum dissipations can be induced by coupling the non-dissipative system to a noise bath of harmonic oscillators [2, 17]. In classical problems, the loss in the Drude-Lorentz-Sommerfeld oscillator is due to collision of the electron with the lattice or the ions. Hence, it is reasonable to assume that the loss in the Lorentz oscillator comes from its coupling to other systems which can be modeled as a noise bath.

In general, there are many sources of noise in a system. To simplify, the noise bath will be assumed to consist only of a large collection of simple harmonic oscillators. This model has been assumed in the Huttner and Barnett model [17] as well as in other quantum systems [2, 24]. There in [17], the free-field is coupled to matter, and then the matter is coupled to a noise bath. The matter there is equivalent to the Lorentz oscillators here. Because of the simplification of the noise bath model, the noise bath is only modeled phenomenologically.

Hence, in this paper, it is assumed that the loss in the Lorentz oscillators is a consequence of their coupling to a noise bath which is also modeled by a collection of harmonic oscillators.

A. Classical Case

First, the Hamiltonian due to the coupling of the field-matter to a noise bath will be illustrated. To this end, the total Hamiltonian density is given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{PB} = \mathcal{H}_P + \mathcal{H}_B + \mathcal{H}_{INT} \quad (47)$$

where on the right-hand side, the first Hamiltonian density, \mathcal{H}_P , is due to matter consisting of Lorentz oscillators which are used to describe the polarization current, the second Hamiltonian density, \mathcal{H}_B , is due to the noise bath, while the third Hamiltonian density is the interaction between the matter and the bath. The Hamiltonian density \mathcal{H}_P is as before, and reproduced here as:

$$\mathcal{H}_P = \frac{1}{2} [\beta \mathbf{V}^2 + f \mathbf{P}^2 + 2 \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{E}] \quad (48)$$

The bath Hamiltonian consisting of a large random assortment of simple harmonic oscillators can be written as [39]

$$\mathcal{H}_B = \sum_j \frac{1}{2} [\Pi_{P,j}^2 / \beta_j + f_j \mathbf{P}_j^2] \quad (49)$$

where $\Pi_{P,j} = \beta_j \mathbf{V}_j$ is the conjugate variable to \mathbf{P}_j . The interaction Hamiltonian is

$$\mathcal{H}_{INT} = \sum_j [\alpha_j^\Pi \Pi_{P,j} \cdot \mathbf{P} + \alpha_j^P \mathbf{P}_j \cdot \mathbf{P}] \quad (50)$$

The above is motivated by the discrete case: If one has N discrete oscillators, coupled by a stiffness matrix K_{ij} , the coupling term yielding the potential energy is proportional to $\sum_{i,j} q_i K_{ij} q_j$. Similar argument can be made for coupling via the mass matrix [29, 40].

The matter-bath Hamiltonian H_{PB} can be obtained by integrating the Hamiltonian density in (47) over space. The equations of motion can then be derived such that

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta H_{PB}}{\delta \Pi_P(\mathbf{r}, t)} = \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \sum_j \alpha_j^\Pi \Pi_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (51)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{\delta H_{PB}}{\delta \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = -f \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) \\ &\quad - \sum_j \alpha_j^P \mathbf{P}_j(\mathbf{r}, t)\end{aligned} \quad (52)$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{P}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta H_{PB}}{\delta \Pi_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = \mathbf{V}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) + \alpha_j^\Pi \Pi_P(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (53)$$

$$\dot{\Pi}_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\delta H_{PB}}{\delta \mathbf{P}_j(\mathbf{r}, t)} = -f_j \mathbf{P}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) - \alpha_j^P \mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (54)$$

It is to be noted that in the last equation above, the equation of motion for the noise bath oscillator is only coupled to the polarization current $\mathbf{P}(\mathbf{r}, t)$. This is unlike (52) above or (26), where the equation of motion for the polarization current is coupled to the driving San Diego, CA: field $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$.

B. Quantum Case

The derivation of the equations of motion for the quantum case is quite routine: First, the conjugate variable

pairs are elevated to be operators, and then commutators between them are defined. The new commutator needed here for the bath oscillators is

$$\left[\hat{\Pi}_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t), \hat{\mathbf{P}}_{j'}(\mathbf{r}', t)\right] = -i\hbar\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')\delta_{jj'}\hat{\mathbf{I}} \quad (55)$$

The relevant Hamiltonian is hence elevated to be an operator. Using the quantum Hamilton equations, the equations of motion can be derived for the matter-bath coupling to be

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta\hat{H}}{\delta\hat{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t)} = \hat{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \sum_j \alpha_j^\Pi \hat{\Pi}_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (56)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\hat{\Pi}}_P(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{\delta\hat{H}}{\delta\hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = -f\hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \\ &\quad - \sum_j \alpha_j^P \hat{\mathbf{P}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) = \frac{\delta\hat{H}}{\delta\hat{\Pi}_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t)} = \hat{\mathbf{V}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) + \alpha_j^\Pi \hat{\Pi}_P(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (58)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\Pi}}_{P,j}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\frac{\delta\hat{H}}{\delta\hat{\mathbf{P}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t)} = -f_j\hat{\mathbf{P}}_j(\mathbf{r}, t) - \alpha_j^P \hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (59)$$

Similar to before, it is easy to show that these commutators in (32) and (55) are preserved by the above equations of motion.

C. Asymptotic Solution—Coupling of the Lorentz Oscillator to a Noise Bath

The above coupled equations of motion have no closed form or analytic solution. But in the limit when the bath is assumed to be infinitely large, approximate analytic solution can be obtained. Before this is shown, it is necessary to simplify the above equations of motion. A closer look at the equations of motion shows that they are entirely local: Namely, the Lorentz oscillators are not mutually coupled to each others, unlike the e-p pair oscillators in Maxwell's equations. Moreover, the (x, y, z) components of the oscillations are entirely independent of each other. Hence, their coupling to the noise bath is also entirely local. Therefore, they can be fully described by scalar oscillators at a given location. This is also the spirit of the matter-bath model in works of other researchers [17, 24].

Consequently, the matter-bath model can be understood by studying only one single oscillator's coupling to a noise bath. Only the driving field $\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is a function of position. To this end, the above problem will be reduced to one involving a single harmonic oscillator coupled to

a noise bath. Therefore, the following replacements are assumed next:

$$\begin{aligned} \hbar\omega_0\hat{\zeta}^2 &\leftrightarrow f\hat{\mathbf{P}}^2, & \hbar\omega_0\hat{\pi}^2 &\leftrightarrow \beta\hat{\mathbf{V}}^2, \\ \hbar\omega_j\hat{\zeta}_j^2 &\leftrightarrow f_j\hat{\mathbf{P}}_j^2, & \hbar\omega_j\hat{\pi}_j^2 &\leftrightarrow \beta_j\hat{\mathbf{V}}_j^2 \end{aligned} \quad (60)$$

Then the Hamiltonian for a lone Lorentz oscillator coupled to a noise bath becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_{PB} &= \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_0(\hat{\pi}^2 + \hat{\zeta}^2) + \frac{1}{2}\hbar\sum_j\omega_j(\hat{\pi}_j^2 + \hat{\zeta}_j^2) \\ &\quad + \sum_j\hbar\left(\alpha_j^\zeta\hat{\zeta}\hat{\zeta}_j + \alpha_j^\pi\hat{\pi}\hat{\pi}_j\right) + 2C\hat{\pi}\hat{E} \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

The first term represents the Hamiltonian for a lone Lorentz oscillator yielding the polarization current inside the medium, while the second term represents the Hamiltonian of the harmonic oscillators in the bath. The third term is the interaction of the lone Lorentz oscillator with the bath oscillators. The last term is due to the external driving field E , and can be ignored for the following analysis. In this model, the Lorentz oscillators and the noise oscillators at different locations are completely independent of each other, hence, ω_0 , ω_j , α_j^ζ , α_j^π , C , and \hat{E} can be functions of position. In qd:eq2, these equations are similar to that of the mode decomposition picture [30], but they represent modes at different locations.

Without the last term, the above Hamiltonian is that of a collection of N coupled simple harmonic oscillators. They will have N natural modes or resonant frequencies. The number of modes will become infinitely large as $N \rightarrow \infty$. Moreover, since this is a lossless Hermitian system, all the resonant frequencies are real. But when the system is separated into a Lorentz oscillator coupled to a bath of harmonic oscillators, one can discern energy flow from the Lorentz oscillator to the bath as shall be shown by the following analysis. One can show that the natural mode of the Lorentz oscillator becomes complex implying that the natural mode of the Lorentz oscillator decays with time. To find the natural modes of the coupled harmonic oscillators, the driving term or the last term in the Hamiltonian in (61) can be ignored.

To this end, one can then transform the above into a rotating wave picture by transforming to normal variables [3] by letting

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\zeta} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{a} + \hat{a}^\dagger), & \hat{\pi} &= \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2}}(\hat{a} - \hat{a}^\dagger), \\ \hat{\zeta}_j &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_j + \hat{b}_j^\dagger), & \hat{\pi}_j &= \frac{1}{i\sqrt{2}}(\hat{b}_j - \hat{b}_j^\dagger) \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

where \hat{a} and \hat{b}_j represent the modes of the lone Lorentz oscillator and the j -th bath oscillator, respectively. Con-

sequently, the Hamiltonian becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H}_{PB} = & \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_0 (\hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}) + \sum_j \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_j (\hat{b}_j\hat{b}_j^\dagger + \hat{b}_j^\dagger\hat{b}_j) \\ & + \sum_j \hbar \frac{\alpha_j^\zeta + \alpha_j^\pi}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{a}\hat{b}_j^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b}_j) \\ & + \sum_j \hbar \frac{\alpha_j^\zeta - \alpha_j^\pi}{\sqrt{2}} (\hat{a}\hat{b}_j + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b}_j^\dagger)\end{aligned}\quad (63)$$

If $\alpha_j^\zeta = \alpha_j^\pi$, then the last term above vanishes; or one can make the rotating wave approximation that the last term is rapidly varying, and hence, its contribution to the total Hamiltonian is small. Therefore, the final Hamiltonian becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H}_{PB} = & \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_0 (\hat{a}\hat{a}^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{a}) + \sum_j \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega_j (\hat{b}_j\hat{b}_j^\dagger + \hat{b}_j^\dagger\hat{b}_j) \\ & + \sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j \hbar (\hat{a}\hat{b}_j^\dagger + \hat{a}^\dagger\hat{b}_j)\end{aligned}\quad (64)$$

where $\tilde{\gamma}_j = \frac{\alpha_j^\zeta + \alpha_j^\pi}{\sqrt{2}}$. The equations of motion for \hat{a} and \hat{b}_j can be easily derived using the Heisenberg equation of motion or

$$\dot{\hat{a}} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{a}, \hat{H}], \quad \dot{\hat{b}}_j = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{b}_j, \hat{H}] \quad (65)$$

They become [33]

$$\dot{\hat{a}} = -i \left(\omega_0 \hat{a} + \sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{b}_j \right) \quad (66)$$

$$\dot{\hat{b}}_j = -i (\omega_j \hat{b}_j + \tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{a}) \quad (67)$$

The above is a Hermitian system with no loss. The corresponding eigenmodes of the system correspond to lossless time harmonic oscillators typical of a Hermitian system. If there are N oscillators coupled together, there would be N degrees of freedom and this system of equations yields N modes. These equations account for the coupling of the lone Lorentz oscillator to the noise bath oscillators, but not the coupling between the oscillators within the noise bath.

However, if the initial condition is such that the starting states of the harmonic oscillators in the bath are completely random, it has been shown in [6, eq. (6.89)] and [9] that the leakage of energy from the lone oscillator to the bath gives rise to the decay of the amplitude of the harmonic oscillator.

Following [9] by defining $\hat{b}_j = \hat{\tilde{b}}_j e^{-i\omega_j t}$, the second equation can be simplified as

$$\dot{\hat{\tilde{b}}}_j = -i\tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{a} e^{i\omega_j t} \quad (68)$$

The above equation can be integrated to yield

$$\hat{\tilde{b}}_j(t) = -i \int_0^t \tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{a}(\tau) e^{i\omega_j \tau} d\tau + \hat{\tilde{b}}_j(0) \quad (69)$$

Upon substituting the above into equation (66), and exchanging the order of integration and summation, one arrives at

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\hat{a}} = & -i\omega_0 \hat{a} - \int_0^t \sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j^2 \hat{a}(\tau) e^{-i\omega_j(t-\tau)} d\tau \\ & - i \sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{\tilde{b}}_j(0) e^{-i\omega_j t}\end{aligned}\quad (70)$$

The above can be thought of as a model for detailed balance, but it has no closed form expression for the terms. So to obtain approximate analytic expressions for the terms, one can study the summation term inside the second term on the right-hand side in greater detail. The summation above is given by

$$\sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j^2 e^{-i\omega_j(t-\tau)} \quad (71)$$

It clearly peaks when $t = \tau$. Moreover, if one assumes that $\tilde{\gamma}_j$ is weakly dependent on j so that it can be approximated by $\tilde{\gamma}_j^2 \approx \frac{\eta}{2\pi} \Delta\omega$ then

$$\sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j^2 e^{-i\omega_j(t-\tau)} \approx \frac{\eta}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\omega(t-\tau)} d\omega = \eta \delta(t-\tau) \quad (72)$$

The above equation now becomes

$$\dot{\hat{a}} = -i\omega_0 \hat{a} - \eta \hat{a} - i \sum_j \tilde{\gamma}_j \hat{\tilde{b}}_j(0) e^{-i\omega_j t} \quad (73)$$

which is the same as that derived by the Laplace transform method in the Appendix as $\hat{\tilde{b}}_j(0) = \hat{b}_j(0)$. It is interesting to note that the coupling to the bath introduces a dissipation term given by $-\eta \hat{a}$, but it is also augmented by a source term given by the last term above. The augmented source term can be regarded as the Langevin source. In Figure 1 the coupled system is sketched.

V. PHYSICAL INTERPRETATION

One can contemplate the physical meaning of the above further. Equations (66) and (67), represent a Hermitian lossless system of coupled oscillating modes. All the resonant modes of the Hermitian system can be proved to be real. However, the second term on the right-hand side of (66) implies that \hat{a} is being driven by \hat{b}_j . But \hat{b}_j is being also bring driven by \hat{a} : this point is being expressed by (69). The first term on the right-hand side represents the back action by \hat{a} on \hat{b}_j , while the second

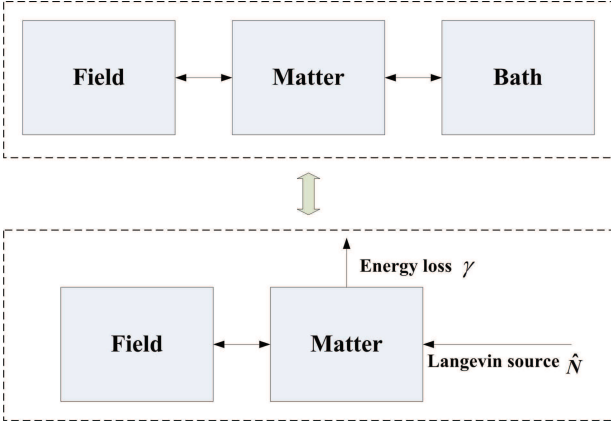


FIG. 1. The field-matter-bath coupled system. The effect of the bath is the introduction of loss and Langevin sources into the matter system, which further influences the field.

term implies that \hat{b}_j will remain unchanged if \hat{a} and \hat{b}_j are not coupled together.

In (70), the second term on the right-hand side can be written as a convolutional integral:

$$\hat{a}(t) \otimes B(t) \quad (74)$$

where $B(t) = \sum_j \hat{\gamma}_j^2 e^{-i\omega_j t}$. It is seen that $B(t)$ is the sum of many oscillators with different frequencies. This term eventually leads to the loss term in (73), but the loss is caused by the destructive interference or non-time-reversibility of the oscillators in the bath. That it becomes a loss term that “siphons” energy from the oscillator to the bath is only valid in the ensemble average sense. The last term in (73), on the other hand, “pumps” energy back into the \hat{a} oscillator. But it is seen that the last term is again a sum of incoherent oscillators with initial values $\hat{b}_j(0)$ which is random.

The initial value $\hat{b}_j(0)$ is very much related to the temperature of the noise bath: The higher the temperature, the larger the initial values. Also, this term is “white” (as in white noise) compared to the term that siphons energy off the \hat{a} oscillator. By energy conservation, these two energies, siphoned energy and pumped energy, should be equal to each other, but they are equal only in the ensemble average sense.

Because of this physical interpretation, the last term in (73) can be expressed as the Langevin noise source, namely,

$$\dot{\hat{a}} = -i\omega_0 \hat{a} - \eta \hat{a} + \hat{F}(t) \quad (75)$$

where

$$\hat{F}(t) = -i \sum_j \hat{\gamma}_j \hat{b}_j(0) e^{-i\omega_j t} \quad (76)$$

By the same token, the creation operator equivalence of the above is

$$\dot{\hat{a}}^\dagger = i\omega_0 \hat{a}^\dagger - \eta \hat{a}^\dagger + \hat{F}^\dagger(t) \quad (77)$$

The above system cannot be proven to be Hermitian, but it has descended from a Hermitian system with asymptotic approximations. So it should be quasi-Hermitian, or Hermitian in the average sense. Or one can envision that the Langevin sources produce a response that compensates the loss due to coupling of the system to the noise bath. This is similar in spirit to the fluctuation dissipation theorem [41–43] where the loss of energy from the system to the noise bath in thermal equilibrium is compensated by the back-coupling of energy back from the noise bath to the system.

Furthermore, it can be shown that the Langevin sources are highly uncorrelated in time such that [6, 9]

$$\begin{aligned} \langle [\hat{F}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(t')] \rangle &= \sum_j |\gamma_j|^2 e^{i\omega_j(t'-t)} \langle [\hat{b}_j(0), \hat{b}_j^\dagger(0)] \rangle \\ &= 2\eta \delta(t - t') \end{aligned} \quad (78)$$

where the angular brackets implies ensemble average. And more importantly, the commutator between the \hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger is preserved, as it was in the original Hermitian system. The real and imaginary parts of operators \hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger are related to the quantum observables \hat{p} and \hat{q} . The commutator of \hat{p} and \hat{q} is related to the commutator of \hat{a} and \hat{a}^\dagger . As has been seen before, these commutators are important for inducing the quantum Hamilton equations of motion. The loss of these commutators would have meant that the quantum equations of motion are not preserved. This would have been bizzare, as it means that physical laws are not preserved.

One can define a Langevin noise operator such that

$$\hat{F}(t) = \sqrt{2\eta} \hat{f}(t), \quad [\hat{f}(t), \hat{f}^\dagger(t)] = \delta(t - t') \quad (79)$$

A. Connecting Back with $\hat{\zeta}$, $\hat{\pi}$, and $\hat{\mathbf{P}}$ Model

In order to connect this quantum loss back with the macroscopic Maxwell’s equations, one needs to first connect back with the ζ and π variables model in (62). Therefore, one arrives at the following equation pair:

$$\dot{\hat{\zeta}} = \omega_0 \hat{\pi} - \eta \hat{\zeta} + 2\sqrt{\eta} \hat{f}_R \quad (80)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\pi}} = -\omega_0 \hat{\zeta} - \eta \hat{\pi} + 2\sqrt{\eta} \hat{f}_I \quad (81)$$

where from (79), it follows that $\hat{f}(t) = \hat{f}_R(t) + i\hat{f}_I(t)$ where $\hat{f}_R(t)$ and $\hat{f}_I(t)$ are Hermitian operators, or respectively, the “real” and “imaginary” parts of the $\hat{f}(t)$ operator. It can be shown that

$$\langle [\hat{f}_R(t), \hat{f}_I(t')] \rangle = i\frac{1}{2} \delta(t - t') \quad (82)$$

From the above, it can be shown that

$$\ddot{\hat{\zeta}} = -\omega_0^2 \hat{\zeta} - \omega_0 \eta \hat{\pi} - \eta \dot{\hat{\zeta}} + 2\sqrt{\eta}(\omega_0 \hat{f}_I + \dot{\hat{f}}_R) \quad (83)$$

For the low loss case, from (80), $\omega_0\eta\hat{\pi} \approx \eta\dot{\hat{\zeta}}$, and the above equation can be approximated as

$$\ddot{\hat{\zeta}} = -\omega_0^2\hat{\zeta} - 2\eta\dot{\hat{\zeta}} + 2\sqrt{\eta}(\omega_0\hat{f}_I + \dot{\hat{f}}_R) \quad (84)$$

The above is the result of a lone Lorentz oscillator. It needs to be connected to the macroscopic Lorentz oscillator in a material medium which is due to a cluster of Lorentz oscillators. Also, the above is written in terms of dimensionless coordinate ζ . Here, the polarization density is normalized, and the collection of Lorentz oscillators is still a simple harmonic oscillators. Hence, the macroscopic harmonic oscillator can be connected to the lone harmonic oscillator, as in (60) by equating

$$\hbar\omega_0\hat{\zeta}^2 = f\hat{\mathbf{P}}^2 \quad (85)$$

From the above, one connects $\hat{\zeta}$, the i -th component of the polarization density of a medium is given by

$$\hat{P}_i = q\sqrt{\frac{n\hbar}{m\omega_0\epsilon}}\hat{\zeta}_i \quad (86)$$

where the subscript i here implies x, y, z components, n is the electron density per unit volume, and e is assumed positive. The polarization density is normalized such that P_i^2 is energy density. Multiplying (84) by the constant $q\sqrt{\frac{n\hbar}{m\omega_0\epsilon}}$ yields

$$\ddot{\hat{P}}_i = -\omega_0^2\hat{P}_i - 2\eta\dot{\hat{P}}_i + \hat{N}_i \quad (87)$$

where

$$\hat{N}_i = q\sqrt{\frac{n\hbar}{m\omega_0\epsilon}}2\sqrt{\eta}\left(\omega_0\hat{f}_{I,i} + \dot{\hat{f}}_{R,i}\right) \quad (88)$$

Translating this back to the original variables, and adding the external driving field \mathbf{E} , one has

$$\ddot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \gamma\dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \omega_0^2\hat{\mathbf{P}}(\mathbf{r}, t) + \hat{\mathbf{N}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \omega_p^2\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (89)$$

where $\gamma = 2\eta$, and the i -th component of the Langevin source only contributes to the i -th component of the above equation. The above illustrates the interesting notion that the Lorentz oscillator is being driven by the field \mathbf{E} as well as the Langevin source \mathbf{N} . It also illustrates the notion that loss in Maxwell's equations come from coupling to a noise bath that is formed by other harmonic oscillators. When there is no materials, there is no loss. That explains why a photon due to the free field in vacuum can travel through the galaxy without being absorbed.

The above quantum operator equation for the lossy Lorentz oscillator can be solved in tandem with the rest of the quantum electromagnetic equations.

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{H}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = -\nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (90)$$

$$\dot{\hat{\mathbf{E}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{H}}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \dot{\hat{\mathbf{P}}}(\mathbf{r}, t) \quad (91)$$

They constitute the quantum electromagnetic equations for a lossy system coupled to a noise bath. The coupling to the noise bath gives rise to Langevin sources that are needed to retain its Hermitian or lossless nature in the average sense.

B. Connection to FDT and the Work of Welsch's Group

In Welsch's group, the commutator for the noise current has been motivated by the fluctuation dissipation theorem (FDT). The connection of this work to FDT and hence, the work of Welsch's group will be shown. From (89), (90), and (91) and with Fourier transform, we can get the quantized vector wave equation of electric field in the frequency domain, i.e.

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) - \omega^2\epsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega)\hat{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega\hat{\mathbf{j}}_n(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \quad (92)$$

where $\epsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = 1 + \omega_p^2/(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - i\omega\gamma)$ is the permittivity for the lossy and dispersive media. Here, ω_p , ω_0 , and γ can be functions of \mathbf{r} . Moreover, the noise current $\hat{\mathbf{j}}_n$ can be expressed as

$$\hat{\mathbf{j}}_n(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = i\omega\frac{\hat{\mathbf{N}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega)}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 - i\omega\gamma} \quad (93)$$

The commutation relation of the Langevin noise source $\hat{\mathbf{N}}$ can be obtained from (89) and (82)

$$[\hat{\mathbf{N}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{N}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] = \frac{nq^2}{m\epsilon}\hbar\gamma(\mathbf{r})\omega/\pi = \omega_p^2\hbar\gamma(\mathbf{r})\omega/\pi \quad (94)$$

By using (93) and (94), the commutation relation of the noise current is of form

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{\mathbf{j}}_n(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{j}}_n^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] &= \omega^2\frac{[\hat{\mathbf{N}}(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{N}}^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega)]}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + \omega^2\gamma(\mathbf{r})^2} \\ &= \frac{\hbar\omega}{\pi}\omega\frac{\omega_p^2\omega\gamma(\mathbf{r})}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + \omega^2\gamma(\mathbf{r})^2} \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

The conductivity of the lossy and dispersive media is given by

$$\sigma(\mathbf{r}, \omega) = \omega\Im m\{\epsilon(\mathbf{r}, \omega)\} = \omega\frac{\omega_p^2\omega\gamma(\mathbf{r})}{(\omega_0^2 - \omega^2)^2 + \omega^2\gamma(\mathbf{r})^2} \quad (96)$$

Hence, the commutation relation Eq. (95) can be simplified as

$$[\hat{\mathbf{j}}_n(\mathbf{r}, \omega), \hat{\mathbf{j}}_n^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \omega)] = \frac{\hbar\omega}{\pi}\sigma(\mathbf{r}, \omega) \quad (97)$$

The above agrees with Eq. (18) in the paper from Welsch's group [20], Eq. (3.54) in Scheel and Buhmann [23], and the fluctuation dissipation theorem.

VI. CONCLUSION

We have presented a model for lossy, dispersive electromagnetic medium that is valid in the quantum regime. The medium is dispersive because of the coupling of the Maxwellian free fields to a set of Lorentz oscillators. This can be regarded as field-matter coupling in the parlance of previous work [17]. Furthermore, loss is induced in the quantum system by coupling to a collection of simple harmonic oscillators to model noise in a phenomenological manner.

The dispersion comes about because these Lorentz oscillators are sluggish, and their dipole moments cannot be turned on (or off) instantaneously. The coupled system of the Lorentz oscillators to the Maxwellian free field is quantized rigorously here, corresponding to the quantization of a dispersive electromagnetic system. Such quantization is achieved without the need for mode decomposition or diagonalization of the system. Also, such quantization of the coupled system between free field and matter has not been seen before using this approach. This is advantageous in some systems where finding the normal modes could be a numerically intensive endeavor.

In this work, we show the coupling of field to matter consisting of only one species of Lorentz oscillators. The generalization to the multi-species oscillators case is straightforward and will be shown in our future work.

Also, the loss of the quantum system is obtained by coupling the lone oscillator to a bath; the bath induces loss in the Lorentz oscillator, making its resonance frequency complex. The effect of the noise bath is to shift the resonant frequency of the Lorentz oscillator from being real to a complex number. Meanwhile, the presence of loss requires the appearance of Langevin sources causing the whole system to be energy conserving or quasi-Hermitian in the ensemble average sense. Hence, the loss model is considerably simpler allowing for analytic solution to elucidate the physics behind the loss mechanism. One can also observe the one-way flow of energy from the host quantum system consisting of the Lorentz oscillator to the noise bath. Moreover, the equations of motion are considerably simpler and closer to the classical model. The proximity of the model to classical model allows the ease to incorporate computational electromagnetics methods [44] to solve future quantum problems. The appearance of Langevin sources is commensurate with the physics of the fluctuation dissipation theorem [41–43, 46, 47]: at thermal equilibrium with a noise bath, energy is lost from the quantum system to the bath, but energy is also returned to the quantum system from the noise bath. A more complicated noise model as expounded in [11] can be assumed. There, more complicated physical processes such as coupling to phonons and electron collisions can give rise to dissipation but this is beyond the scope of this work.

In the previous work involving the coupling between the free-field, matter, and noise bath, the mode decomposition of the entire coupled system is achieved with Fano

diagonalization, giving rise to modes which are called polaritons [17]. But here, no diagonalization is necessary, and the resulting quantum equations of motion resemble the classical equations of motion involving Lorentz oscillators. It is hoped that this will enable a simpler model for dissipative quantum electromagnetic systems as well as future quantum technologies.

The ability to model quantum dissipation is important to determine the coherence time of a quantum system. This is especially important in the design of quantum computers where the coherence between qubits (quantum bits) or artificial atoms has to be maintained. This model also points out that in a pure vacuum, there could be no quantum dissipation unless material media are present. As aforementioned, this explains why photons can traverse gigantic distances in our universe.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Appendix A: Energy Stored in the Field

Neglecting the $1/2$ factor, the Hamiltonian for the vector potential is

$$\mathcal{H}_{A,0} = \Pi_A^2 + (\nabla \times \mathbf{A})^2 + (\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})^2 = \Pi_A^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 + \Pi_\Phi^2 \quad (\text{A1})$$

where $\Pi_A = \dot{\mathbf{A}}$, $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = -\dot{\Phi}$, and $\mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$.

$$\mathcal{H}_{\Phi,0} = \Pi_\Phi^2 + (\nabla \Phi)^2 \quad (\text{A2})$$

The subscript “0” is used to indicate that these Hamiltonians are the stand-alone Hamiltonians where coupling with the polarization current is not accounted for. Therefore,

$$\mathcal{H}_{A,0} - \mathcal{H}_{\Phi,0} = \Pi_A^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 - (\nabla \Phi)^2 \quad (\text{A3})$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H}_{F,0} &= \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 = (\Pi_A + \nabla \Phi)^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \\ &= \Pi_A^2 + (\nabla \Phi)^2 + 2\nabla \Phi \cdot \Pi_A + \mathbf{B}^2 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} 2\nabla \Phi \cdot \Pi_A &= -2\Phi \nabla \cdot \Pi_A = 2\Phi \ddot{\Phi} = 2\Phi(\nabla^2 \Phi + \rho) \\ &= -2(\nabla \Phi)^2 + 2\rho \Phi \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A5})$$

where integration by parts has been used liberally, since these are integrands embedded in an outer integral, namely, the actual Hamiltonian is related to the Hamiltonian density by an integral. Using the above, then

$$\mathcal{H}_{F,0} = \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 = \mathcal{H}_{A,0} - \mathcal{H}_{\Phi,0} + 2\rho \Phi \quad (\text{A6})$$

The above is important for the derivation of (19).

Appendix B: Laplace Transform Approach for Quantum Dissipation

Defining the Laplace transform of $a(t)$ as $A(s)$, one deduce from (66) and (67) that

$$\hat{A}(s) \left(s + i\omega_0 + \sum_j \frac{\gamma_j^2}{s + i\omega_j} \right) = \hat{a}(0) \quad (\text{B1})$$

Assuming that there are infinitely many harmonic oscillators in the bath, then the above summation can be replaced by an integral when the number of modes is infinitely large, and the spacing between their frequencies becomes infinitesimally small. Namely,

$$\begin{aligned} I(s) &= \sum_j \frac{\gamma_j^2}{s + i\omega_j} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \frac{\eta(\omega)}{s + i\omega} \\ &= \frac{1}{i2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \frac{\eta(\omega)}{\omega - is} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

where $\gamma_j^2 \approx \frac{1}{2\pi} \eta(\omega) \Delta\omega$ and $\omega = \omega_j = j\Delta\omega$. A pole is located at $\omega = is$. But the radius of convergence (ROC) on the complex s plane is for $\text{Re}(s) > 0$. Therefore, for s in the ROC, the pole in the complex ω is above the real ω axis.

By assuming that $\eta(\omega) \rightarrow 0$, $|\omega| \rightarrow \infty$ and that $\eta(\omega)$ is analytic, then by invoking Cauchy's theorem and Jordan's lemma [45], the above integral can be evaluated in closed form yielding

$$I(s) = \eta(is) \quad (\text{B3})$$

Since $\eta(\omega)$ is real when ω is real, $\eta(is)$ is approximately real when is is close to the real axis. But, $\eta(s)$ is weakly dependent on s , and can be assumed to be independent of frequency ω . Then the pole of the system described by (B1) is given by

$$s = -i\omega_0 - \eta \quad (\text{B4})$$

The above pole corresponds to a dissipative mode representing quantum loss.

If the noise bath oscillators are not set to zero at $t = 0$, then the pertinent equation for the initial value problem becomes

$$\hat{A}(s) \left(s + i\omega_0 + \sum_j \frac{\gamma_j^2}{s + i\omega_j} \right) = \hat{a}(0) - i \sum_j \frac{\gamma_j \hat{b}_j(0)}{s + i\omega_j} \quad (\text{B5})$$

The summation on the left-hand side can again be approximated as before to arrive at

$$\hat{A}(s) (s + i\omega_0 + \eta) = \hat{a}(0) - i \sum_j \frac{\gamma_j \hat{b}_j(0)}{s + i\omega_j} \quad (\text{B6})$$

It is not possible to find a simple approximation to the summation on the right-hand side since $\hat{b}_j(0)$ is a random variable in the noise bath. So it is left as it is. The above equation can be transformed back to the time domain to yield

$$\dot{\hat{a}} = -i\omega_0 \hat{a} - \eta \hat{a} - i \sum_j \gamma_j \hat{b}_j(0) e^{-i\omega_j t} \quad (\text{B7})$$

The above is similar to (73).

Appendix C: Proof of Preservation of Commutator

The proof of the preservation of the quantum commutator has been lucidly presented by Tan in [9]. But since it is in Chinese, it is reproduced here. By using the product rule for differentiation, one gets

$$\frac{d}{dt} [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] = \left[\hat{a}, \frac{d}{dt} \hat{a}^\dagger \right] + \left[\frac{d}{dt} \hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger \right] \quad (\text{C1})$$

From (75) and (77), one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \hat{a}^\dagger(t) &= i\omega \hat{a}^\dagger(t) - \eta \hat{a}^\dagger(t) + \hat{F}^\dagger(t), \\ \frac{d}{dt} \hat{a}(t) &= -i\omega \hat{a}(t) - \eta \hat{a}(t) + \hat{F}(t) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C2})$$

From (C1)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] &= i\omega_0 [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] - \eta [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\hat{a}, \hat{F}^\dagger] \\ &\quad - i\omega_0 [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] - \eta [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\hat{F}, \hat{a}^\dagger] \\ &= -2\eta [\hat{a}, \hat{a}^\dagger] + [\hat{a}, \hat{F}^\dagger] + [\hat{F}, \hat{a}^\dagger] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C3})$$

Integrating the above yields

$$\hat{a}^\dagger(t) = \hat{a}^\dagger(0) e^{i\omega_0 t - \eta t} + \int_0^t d\tau e^{(i\omega_0 - \eta)(t - \tau)} \hat{F}^\dagger(\tau) \quad (\text{C4})$$

$$\hat{a}(t) = \hat{a}(0) e^{-i\omega_0 t - \eta t} + \int_0^t d\tau e^{(-i\omega_0 - \eta)(t - \tau)} \hat{F}(\tau) \quad (\text{C5})$$

The commutators on the right-hand side need to be evaluated, yielding

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{F}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] &= [\hat{F}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(0) e^{i\omega_0 t - \eta t}] \\ &\quad + \left[\hat{F}(t), \int_0^t d\tau e^{(i\omega_0 - \eta)(t - \tau)} \hat{F}^\dagger(\tau) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C6})$$

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{a}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(t)] &= [\hat{a}(0) e^{-i\omega_0 t - \eta t}, \hat{F}^\dagger(t)] \\ &\quad + \left[\int_0^t d\tau e^{(-i\omega_0 - \eta)(t - \tau)} \hat{F}(\tau), \hat{F}^\dagger(t) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C7})$$

Using the definition for the commutator as given in (76), the first term on the right-hand side of the above can be

shown to be zero. Then it can be shown that the above becomes

$$[\hat{F}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] = \int_0^t d\tau e^{(i\omega_0 - \eta)(t-\tau)} [\hat{F}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(\tau)] \quad (\text{C8})$$

It is more prudent to take the ensemble average of the above, as the noise bath can consist of time-varying dipoles, e.g., in Brownian motion. Then

$$\langle [\hat{F}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] \rangle = \int_0^t d\tau e^{(i\omega_0 - \eta)(t-\tau)} \langle [\hat{F}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(\tau)] \rangle \quad (\text{C9})$$

From (78) that

$$\langle [\hat{F}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(t')] \rangle = \eta \delta(t - t') \quad (\text{C10})$$

then

$$\langle [\hat{F}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] \rangle = \langle [\hat{a}(t), \hat{F}^\dagger(t)] \rangle = \eta \quad (\text{C11})$$

Finally, from (C3), after taking ensemble average.

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle [\hat{a}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] \rangle = 2\eta (1 - \langle [\hat{a}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] \rangle) \quad (\text{C12})$$

The above implies that

$$\langle [\hat{a}(t), \hat{a}^\dagger(t)] \rangle = 1 \quad (\text{C13})$$

or that the commutator is preserved.

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